

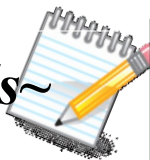


MMSA NEWS

October 2011

Volume XV Issue XIII

Notes from the Principals~



Dear MMS Families,

With the appearance of the year's first progress report, the school year is well underway. Thank you for your attendance at our Open House a couple of weeks ago. We hope that the evening provided an opportunity to see your child's teachers and to get an overview of what your child has to look forward to in each class.

We have three new teachers at MMS this year.

Yalibi D'Addario is our new French teacher. She has earned degrees in Education, International Development Education, and Cultural Anthropology from George Washington University, Florida International University and the University of Massachusetts. Last year she was a Spanish teacher and curriculum coordinator in Windsor Locks.

Sophia Donforth is teaching science and literature in Grade 7. She has earned degrees in Interdisciplinary Studies and Education from Cornell University and the University of Vermont. She taught fifth grade last year at a private school in Dallas, Texas.

Carol Moran has joined our fifth grade team as a science and reading teacher. She has degrees in Political Science and Gifted Education from Middlebury College and UConn. Mrs. Moran was the enrichment coordinator and the science enrichment teacher at Ashford Elementary School since 1997.

After-school activities are very popular this fall, with 300 students participating in 24 offerings. We are very proud of this program which allows our students and our staff members to get to know each other and work together in ways that aren't always possible in the academic program. Please remember that our After-School Activities Program is NOT an after-school care program. In other words, if a teacher is absent or unavailable, an activity meeting may be canceled, and students will be told to take the regular bus home at 2:50. Please be sure that your child knows how to contact you during the day to let you know if an activity is canceled.

[Please see *Letter*, continued on page 2]

Mark Your Calendar



October

- Oct. 10—No School, Columbus Day
- Oct. 11—No School, Professional Devel. Day
- Oct. 12 - Archeology Day, 7th Grade
- Oct. 12—Overlook Farm Visit, 6th Grade (1/2)
- Oct. 14—Boston Trip, Grade 7; Overlook Farm, Gr. 6
- Oct. 17-21— Please visit: **Middle School Education Week** and Book Fair
- Oct. 28—Mystic Field Trip, Grade 5
- Oct. 22— Halloween Window Painting



November

- Nov. 2—Internet Safety Presentation for Parents, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 4—First Marking Period Ends
- Nov. 5—Eastern Region Music Auditions
- Nov. 9—Report Cards Issued
- Nov. 10 & 11—No School
- Nov. 18 School Musical "HONK!" Performance, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 19- School Musical "HONK!" Performance, 7p.m.
- Nov. 20- School Musical "HONK!" Performance, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 21 & 22—Early Dismissal and Parent Conferences
- Nov. 23—Early Dismissal
- Nov. 24 & 25— No School —Thanksgiving holiday



Parking Lot Routines: If you drive your child to or from school, please use the front circle for picking up and dropping off your child. Please do not use the faculty lot for pick-ups and drop-offs because we have buses that regularly pick up students there, and additional traffic in that lot limits the room that buses need to maneuver. It is particularly important not to park along curb in the faculty lot. This can block buses from getting into the lot to pick up children. Thank you for your help in keeping the parking lot safe as children get dropped off or look for their rides.



Progress Reports – Please review the attached progress report with your child. If there are any comments about incomplete assignments, please work with your child and with us to make work completion a goal for the second half of the first quarter. Students who have their assignments completed are much more ready to learn during class time. If you need tips to support the completion of a particular type of assignment, please contact the teacher involved. If the progress report indicates a pattern of incomplete work across subjects, please contact your child's school counselor (Mrs. Melody for A-K; Mrs. Lee for L-Z) so we can work together to develop more productive habits.

Best wishes for a great school year ahead!
Sincerely,

Jeff Cryan
Principal

Candace Morell
Assistant Principal



The Mansfield Middle School Association (MMSA), in conjunction with the Mansfield Public Schools Information Technology (IT) Team, will present an Internet Safety Presentation for parents on Wednesday, November 2nd, 2010, at 7:00 PM in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium.

During the school day on November 2nd, Mr. Driscoll will also be conducting grade-level appropriate assemblies for all students in the school. Parents will be informed of new techniques that are being used on-line by predators. Recent trends in children's internet use will also be presented. Parents will also receive tips on ways to prevent a dangerous situation from happening. Parents will see how their children's on-line activities now can have long-term negative effects on their future. Parents will learn tools and strategies they can use to keep their families safe.



The presentation will be given by Mr. Scott Driscoll, of InternetSafetyConcepts.com. As a law enforcement officer, Mr. Driscoll has taken part in numerous Internet crime investigations. Some of the crimes were undercover on-line investigations, possession and distribution of child pornography, on-line bullying and harassment, identity theft, enticement of minors and many others. Along with on-line investigations, Mr. Driscoll also has done forensic computer examinations for law enforcement agencies and instructs fellow law enforcement officials on how to use the Internet for investigations.

~Jim Griffith

Technology Coordinator, Mansfield Middle School



Fall Sports The MMS fall sports season has begun for our boys soccer team, girls soccer team and our cross-country team. Fall student-athletes in Grades 7 and 8 practice or compete in matches/meets each day after school in September and October. Over 60 students are participating in interscholastic sports this fall.



News from MMS

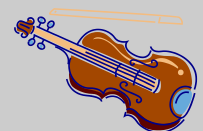
German Exchange Twenty students and two teachers from our partner school, Gymnasium Sarstedt in Sarstedt, Germany, arrived at MMS late on Sunday evening, September 25th. The students are staying with MMS host families, and many school hosts and other students are participating in three weeks of special activities. In addition to living with a Mansfield family and attending classes at MMS, students will travel to Cape Cod for a weekend, participate in a skating party at UConn and a Student Council welcome party, visit New York City, and partake in a Thanksgiving Dinner farewell party. Our German partnership has been going strong since 1993.



Students and teachers from Gymnasium Sarstedt in Sarstedt, Germany.



Nine MMS string players participated in this year's **Fiddlehike**, under the direction of orchestra director Mike Carbonneau. Students left school on Friday morning, September 26, to hike in the White Mountains and to play traditional fiddle tunes at two different venues – an Appalachian Mountain Club hut and the Mount Washington Hotel. Here is a link to an article in *Mansfield Patch* about Fiddlehike: <http://mansfield.patch.com/articles/mansfield-middle-school-students-embark-on-annual-fiddlehike>.



Courtyard Renovation Over a dozen MMS staff members, coordinated by special education teacher Megan Baker, have nearly completed the renovation of the interior court yard by the school's cafeteria. The project included the removal of rotted railroad ties, the building of a brick wall and walkway, and the redesign of the garden. A plaque honoring the volunteers' contribution to our school community has been installed on the courtyard wall.



Arbor Day Contest Winners Last spring Misha Rosado's's colorful poster on the theme *How Trees Help Me* was selected from more than 40 entries of other fifth-grade students around the state as the winner of the state Arbor Day poster contest in 2011. The prize for winning the contest was a flowering dogwood tree, and it will be planted at Mansfield Middle School. Leaders from the Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association will plant the tree with Misha, her teacher Nora Dickinson, and her family on Friday morning, October 6, at 10:30 a.m. Sixth grader Anyka Fegan, who was the 2011 Tolland County award winner for her Arbor Day essay, will read her essay as part of the program. Their sixth grade classmates will join Misha and Anyka for the tree-planting.



You are invited to join in the discussion at our next MMSA meeting!
You are already a member, so come along to get involved
The MMSA meets on the
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
7:00 pm in Room #99